

THREATENED, ENDANGERED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES  
for the  
**CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST**  
3/20/2003

ENDANGERED (E) - Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range

THREATENED (T) – Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

CANDIDATE (C) – Those taxa for which the Service has sufficient information on biological status and threats to propose to list them as threatened or endangered. We encourage their consideration in environmental planning and partnerships, however, none of the substantive or procedural provisions of the Act apply to candidate species.

EXPERIMENTAL NONESSENTIAL POPULATION (XN) – A population of a listed species reintroduced into a specific more flexible management under the Act.

CRITICAL HABITAT (CH) – The specific area (i) within the geographic area occupied by a listed species, at the time it is listed, on which are found those physical or biological features (I) essential to conserve the species and (ii) that may require special management considerations or protection: and (iii) specific areas outside the geographic area occupied by the species at the time it is listed upon determination that such areas are essential to conserve the species.

In accordance with section 7(c) of the Act, the Service has determined that the following listed species may be present on the Custer National Forest:

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATUS	RANGE – MONTANA
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Threatened	Resident year-long, spring/fall migrant, nesting; near or along major waterways.
Grizzly Bear	<i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i>	Threatened	Resident, transient; Alpine/subalpine coniferous forest
Canada Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Threatened	Resident; western Montana – montane spruce/fir forests
Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Experimental Nonessential	Resident, transient; Forests
Mountain Plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Proposed Threatened	Eastern Montana – shortgrass prairie
Least Tern	<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	Endangered	Yellowstone, Missouri River sandbars, beaches; Eastern Montana

Black-footed Ferret	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	Endangered; Experimental Nonessential	Prairie dog complexes; Eastern Montana
Black-tailed prairie dog	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	Candidate	Eastern Montana – prairie; colonial

The Custer National Forest is within the Yellowstone gray wolf nonessential experimental population area. The experimental population area for the Yellowstone region includes the entire State of Wyoming, a portion of southeastern Idaho east of Interstate 15, and a portion of Montana east of Interstate 15 and south of the Missouri River. The Service recommends that the Forest analyze the impacts on nonessential experimental populations, along with other populations of fish and wildlife, when complying with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant land management statutes. Any protective measures in addition to those outlined in the final rules for managing the nonessential experimental wolf populations, or additional review procedures, are at the discretion of the Forest Service.